

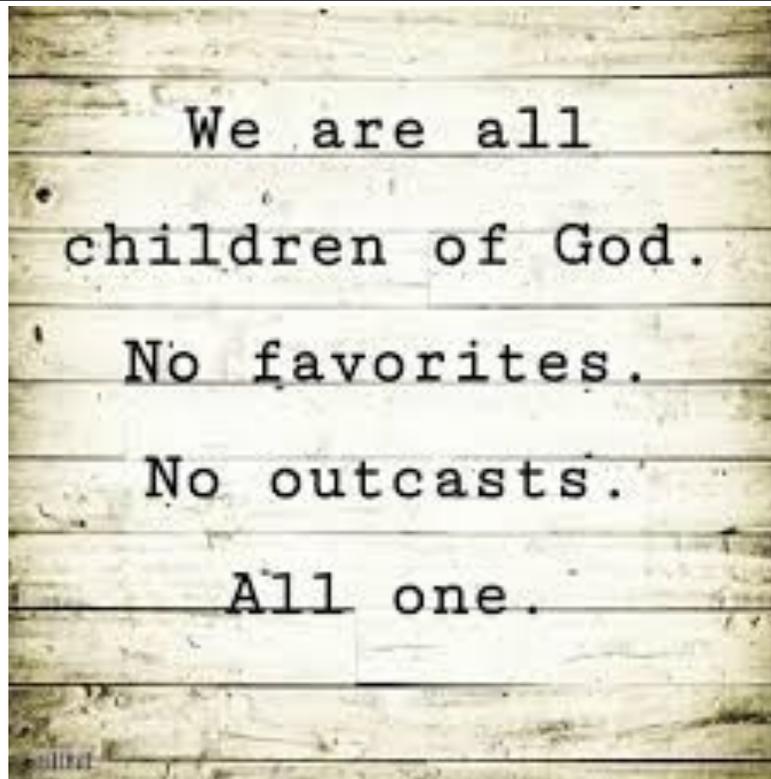


The Beacon

Volume 57 Issue 9

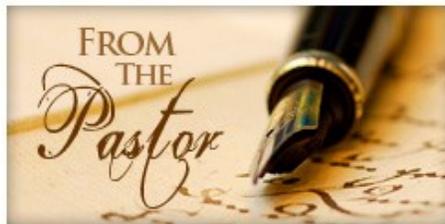
September 2020

University United Methodist Church
Welcoming all to grow as disciples of Christ as we
worship, learn, and serve in community.



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Pastor Jeff's information: Email Address: <a href=) or phone 785-580-5468



Greetings Everyone,

It is my hope and prayer that this little letter finds you doing well. It seems so hard to believe that we have turned the corner into September. In no time at all, we'll be throwing around words like charge conference. I know, right?! I have continued to be encouraged and inspired by how the Holy Spirit continues to move in our midst during these challenging times. And I have been encouraged and inspired by the ways that we have continued to respond to the Holy Spirit's guidance through worship, study, service, giving, and sharing our faith. While some of these commitments have been easier than others to accomplish in the midst of COVID-19 safety guidelines, we have found new ways to do just about anything and everything.

And as we move into September, we will continue to grow as disciples. We'll continue and conclude our worship series "Love Is..." as we explore what it really means to love God and neighbor as Jesus called us to. We'll also have the opportunity to get to know Jesus better through a Zoom Bible study focused on reading the Gospels and reflecting upon who they reveal Jesus to be. As we continue to practice patience, kindness, and humility, we will continue to grow into the fully loving people God created us to be. Our best selves. Let us continue to pray for one another, to support one another, and to be a light to the world bearing the love of the One who sends us!

In response to the heightened level of concern and risk regarding COVID-19 transmission in Shawnee County, we have made the decision to suspend in-person worship until further notice. Worship will continue to be live-streamed on Facebook at 9:15 on Sunday mornings. A recording of the service will be posted to YouTube on Sunday afternoons as an option for those who don't use Facebook. Please let me know if you have any question.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Jeff

worship

Love Is... Series Continued

09.06.20 - Honest
09.13.20 - Self-giving
09.20.20 - Enduring
09.27.20 - The Greatest!



Open Space meets every Tuesday via Zoom at 8:00 p.m.
If you are interested in joining in on the music and worship, for further information
contact Andrew Mitchell at:

acmitch23@gmail.com

KELM LEAR: WIBW's GOOD KID

By [Kimberly Donahue](#)

Topeka High School Senior Kelm Lear has spent his summer as many on the verge of graduation do: thinking about his post-grad plans, figuring out the future of organizations he's been involved with and spending time with family.

The pandemic has added one extra item to his checklist for the summer: planning how to keep his fellow students safe when they eventually return to the building. Topeka Public Schools, which includes Topeka High, has a three phase re-opening plan and every student and staff member will be given two reusable face masks provided by the district. Lear is the president of Topeka High's Interact Club, which specializes in community service and spearheaded the club's latest project to collect additional masks for every student.

"The idea came from the fact that the CDC released guidelines for reopening schools that stated students should wear masks when they return," he said. "We figured that the district is going to be so busy with so many other things in terms of organizing how the school year is going to work that we thought 'let's try to help in any way we can and we thought masks were a good way to do that'". Lear and other club members have been collecting reusable and disposable face masks at Topeka High School every Wednesday since the last week of May. Their original goal was to collect 2,000 face masks, which was surpassed last week. The masks have been coming from members of the community, businesses and even loved ones out of state.

Lear said it's important that face masks are accessible to all students. "I think it's a difference that needs to be made in the community because everybody needs masks. Students are going to lose them they're gonna forget them, so it's important that they have them and don't get sent home to get a mask. They can come to school and be safe."

The project has added purpose to the lives of donors. Joe Miller has been battling Parkinson's for the last two years and when he started making masks for his daughter who works at an area hospital, he found out that making masks was a good tactic for coping with his diagnosis.

"It keeps my brain active because I'm constantly doing math and then it enables me to try to learn different ways to control my tremors," he said.

Miller has since learned how to use a sewing machine and has made over 200 masks for Topeka High School.

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“This whole thing helps me feel good and useful cause a lot of the thing with Parkinson’s is that you feel like you’re getting left behind but this has made me feel more useful and I know I’m helping a lot of people,” he said.

“I think the masks are important and I try to encourage them and by making them I feel like by making them I’m keeping the encouragement going on them.”

Lear said he is excited to eventually return to the halls of Topeka High knowing everyone is safe.

“It just makes me feel proud that our school was able to make school safer for us to return to given all the other things we’re going to have to do to make sure everyone stays safe. I’m glad that we could help in any way that we could.”

Lear is also Topeka High School’s Senior of the Month for September and said he wouldn’t be where he is without his fellow members of the Interact Club.

Lear and other members of the Interact Club will continue to collect reusable and disposable face masks at Topeka High School every Wednesday from 12 to 12:30 pm through September 2nd.

If you want to help but are unable to donate during that time, email the club’s sponsor Murray Moore at mmore1@tps501.com to figure out a way to donate your masks.

FINANCE

This is an update on the Pastor’s Discretionary Fund. First of all, I would like to thank each of you for contributing to this fund.

We have had a request from a foreign exchange student who has befriended some of our church members. This special young man is hard working and has reached out to our church for assistance thru Thaine Hoffman. Robin was not able to return to his homeland at the end of the semester due to

Covid-19. As I said, he is hard working, however, he is needing some assistance with Fall tuition at Washburn. For the purpose of this student, we would like contributions to the Pastor’s Discretionary Fund that may be used for a tuition fund for this one student (for a one-time gift). If you want your funds to go toward tuition, please put PDF-tuition in the memo portion of your check.

Thank you very much for continuing your pledges.

Blessings and stay safe,

Karen Myers



THRIFTLESS THRIFT SALE

When we work on Spring and Fall Thrift Sales, I usually bring in \$50-\$100 worth of things and of course when we are done with the sales, I write a check for what I just can't do without from others. That again, comes to around \$50 per thrift sale. What we are asking you all to do (this year) is think about how much would you have given to that thrift sale and times that by 2 (Spring & Fall) sales and make a check out to UUMW for that amount.

Even with the Thrift Sale alternative, Facebook-Market Place this time, we are sure we will fall short of our average \$2000-\$3000 x 2 = \$4000-\$6000 for our missions. We have to get this money somehow to serve our 20 missions we want to give to. If you have thrift at home, do your own garage sale and give the proceeds to UUMW. We have to think outside our "normal" box this year. If each

family would give \$50x2 (spring/fall sale) we would come nearer our "Thriftless Thrift Sale" goal. Please prayerfully think about doing this, this time. Make your check out to UUMW. We thank you very much.

Thrift Sale Co-chairpersons:

Spring: Diana Whitney and Mary Winans

Fall: Linda Reece and Mary Winans



UUMW DIRECTORY

UUMW ladies, if you haven't picked up your directory please come to get it between 10:00 & 2:00, M-F in the church office.

You will need to make a few corrections in the directory.

Ann Fredrickson's address is 1021 SW Fleming Ct. 66604

Virginia Schmelzle no longer has a landline. Her cell number is 785-213-0608

MISSIONS

Mary Peters has been filling the Blessing Box this month. Others are adding things to the box, too, as we have lots of takers. We can use more drink boxes, bottled drinks, fruit cups, cans of spam, tuna & chicken. Thank you for all your contributions.

Doorstep is collecting NEW, unused toys, blankets, sheets, and other household items...for its "Christmas in July" program...that will be distributed during the holiday season. In addition, they hope to be able to hold their annual Neighbor Helping Neighbor 5K Run/Walk at Lake Shawnee on Oct 4th. For more information about Doorstep needs, contact Susie Marchant (235-0942).

"Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me."
(Matt. 25:40)



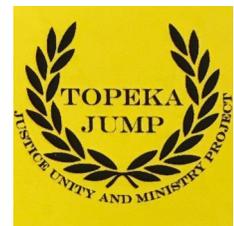
JUMP

Upcoming Justice Ministry events: sacred conversations

As the fall arrives, University will be hosting "house" meetings for us to talk about how COVID-19, surfaced racial tension and other local community problems have impacted us as a church. While these meetings will not take place in living rooms like they did last year, we will still host these sacred conversations as a way to begin the healing from recent national trauma and to forge a way forward together. University will be hosting these house meetings at the same time as 27 other congregations across the county. Currently, JUMP is finishing the final stages of a transportation and anti-violence campaigns. We still have a lot of work to do on affordable housing and predatory lending. However, in 2020, the Topeka city council paid a company called "Development Strategies" to make recommendations to improve housing in Topeka. Their number one recommendation: fund the affordable housing trust fund with over \$1 million. There will be an option to participate in zoom or in person. Please RSVP to these meetings so that we can make sure to get you the link or can make sure we are ensuring safe capacity within the sanctuary.

Suzy Springer- September 24, 6pm-7:30pm (Zoom)

Stacey Cooper – September 30, 6pm-7:30pm in person in the sanctuary, please wear a mask.



UUMW

Good morning. I'm just home from church and ready to spend another exciting Sunday. The weather has been lovely this past week. The message this morning was uplifting. AND we have another Bible study coming up in a week. We will be studying Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.



I will be pleased to have something good happening on the Monday before I begin a 14 day quarantine on September 3. I will be having surgery to correct both lower eyelids on September 14. About the time I thought we might be able to begin having UMW meetings, Pastor Jeff announced that we might be having some changes to our worship because of the upswing of COVID19. Everything has been put on hold except our relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ. I listened to Joel Osteen for a bit this morning and he said that we are each the good seed planted by the Lord the day we were conceived. The Lord is with us every day throughout our lives and we are meant to do good things because we are of "good seed". Don't despair of the mess the world is in at this moment in time. Good will prevail.

Grace and Peace, Jo Miller

HOPE Circle

We had our monthly meeting as a "road trip" this time. four of us went on a tour of our state capital. Joe, the guide, was very knowledgeable and told us lots of stories. We came in from the north underground parking and into the new area where the tour center is located. They really aren't doing large group tours but since it was only four of us, he said he would do a private one for us. Very interesting. And fun!

The online thrift sales are going, slowly but well. We have gotten all the items that were in the youth room and storage room all grouped, pictures taken, put into boxes to sell, numbered, priced, uploaded to Facebook's Marketplace with descriptions, pictures and price. Then comes in the requests online and back and forth texting to get it sold. Then making arrangements to pick the items up, etc. We four ladies and Thaine are putting in lots of hours to make this work for our missions benefits. We are starting on all the items that are in the Craft room and next door room now. I'm going to see if I can get some type of picture list for those who aren't on Facebook in case some of you would like to purchase something. Stay tuned.

Dar Smith, Diana Whitney, Linda Reece, Thaine Hoffman and Mary Winans

LOOK WHO'S IN THE NEWS

BCBSKS EXECUTIVES

Abby Lear was promoted to vice president of administrative services in March 2017. In that role, she is responsible for all aspects of human resources, including staffing, benefits, compensation, affirmative action/EEO, corporate health and wellness initiatives. In addition, she has oversight for corporate procurement, vendor management and supply chain functions, as well as facilities management for all owned and leased properties, including security and maintenance. Lear also has executive oversight of the company's workforce and leadership development program. Lear brings 11 years of Blue Cross experience to her role. She joined the company in 2008, serving six years as manager of employee benefits and corporate health services, and three years as director of human resources and facilities before becoming vice president. She previously had executive oversight for community relations. Before her employment with Blue Cross, Lear worked nine years for Payless Shoe Source in a number of positions including benefits accounting senior analyst, benefits design senior analyst and college relations specialist. She holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from Kansas State University and is a certified benefits professional. Lear is a graduate of the company's Blue University Leadership Quest program. She serves on the board of directors of SLI, Inc., and previously served on the board of directors for the Sunflower Soccer Association.



Kelm Lear
Senior, Topeka High

Lear is being counted on to become a senior leader for Topeka High this fall after earning All-City and All-Centennial League honorable mention as a junior.



Lear

 Kelm Lear and Soccer

Jim Hayes, Debora Hayes' husband and owner of Hayes House of Music

Musical Instruments



Hayes House of Music
Used Band Instruments
From.....\$99 & Up
One Year Guarantee
Rental Prices Start At \$10 Per Mo.
2007 SW 6th Ave Topeka, KS
Topeka: 1-800-559-4472/
785-234-4472

Doorstep

There will be no cinnamon roll or tamales sale this Fall due to COVID-19.

We are still planning our **3rd Annual Neighbor Helping Neighbor Walk/5K Fun Run** set for **Sunday, October 4th** at Lake Shawnee. Get your family and friends together and join us for some exercise and breakfast while raising funds for Doorstep at the same time!

We have everything available online on our website under the Events Tab:

www.DoorstepTopeka.org You can download the flyer and registration form to mail in, drop off at our office, or register online. To guarantee an event t-shirt you need to register by September 18th. However, we will continue to take late and event day registrations. One child age 10 & under can walk for free (t-shirt extra) with one paid adult. Registration is \$30 per person or get sponsors to cover your fee and donate to Doorstep (sponsor form is also on our website).

If the event becomes impacted by COVID-19 restrictions, we will make the event virtual.

COVID has certainly affected everything this year. Please help Doorstep and your neighbors by participating where you can, walk/run/sponsor!



DOORSTEP

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

The School in Anapra still needs our help.

We were in Anapra in March, but with the threat of Covid19, we have decided not to make our usual mission trip at Thanksgiving. We keep up with them and as if the conditions were not bad enough before, they are much worse now. Pastor Antonio indicates that 180 factories in the area have closed down, putting many of the people in Anapra out of work. In an effort to help, the school has cut tuition in half and is not even charging tuition to those in the most desperate situations. Two parents of students at the school have died due to the virus. Many are hungry so the Briones are starting a free lunch program. They have about 130 enrolled but all classes will be via distance learning so these lunches will need to be distributed. Many families do not have Wi-Fi or even a computer so Antonio is finding ways to provide these. As if their budget was not tight before, all these extra costs mean they really need our help. Some of us are already upping our support but if any of you feel moved to help, please write your check to University UMC and include "Anapra" in the memo line. We are all suffering through this but some have it much, much worse. Thank you for your support.



Thaine Hoffman, Anapra coordinator.

THANK YOU

I want to thank you for all the cards, drive-up birthday honks, balloons, gifts cards and well wishes on Facebook for my 70th Birthday. I really appreciate it.

Mary Winans



FELLOWSHIP AND FAITH

Fellowship and Faith is currently in good shape. I would encourage anyone to continue to donate basic food items such as beans and rice, peanut butter, jelly, canned vegetables and fruit, cereal, etc. Or donate cash or gift cards if preferred.



Fellowship and Faith

**OUR PRAYERS AND CONCERNS GO OUT:
TO OUR MEMBERS & FRIENDS WITH SPECIAL CONCERNS:**



Jo Miller's son - John, Pam Campbell, Lisa Eiben & friend Cheryl, Jane Noble, Pam Land, Mary Winans' friend - Judy Chapman, Norma Pike & her grandchildren, Michael Springer, Donna Spray, Jim & Ann Fredrickson, Ed & Susie Marchant, Steve & Jan Kendall, Scott Campbell, Virginia Schmelzle's niece - Hannah, Sue Holm & Dave Wexler, Bill Rogers, Grace Reichle, Our Police Officers: Randy Bailey and Wendi Winans and our devoted caretakers, The essential/front line people who face COVID-19 daily, our enemies, peace for our world AND PRAYERS FOR OUR COUNTRY.

Our congregation members in the Retirement Centers: Gayle Dick, Joanne Armstrong (Plaza West); Peggy Harrison, Jean/Jerry Hinton, Sue Holm & Dave Wexler, Marie Culver and Maxine McDaniel (Brewster Place); Jim/Ann Fredrickson (Lexington) and Ardith Granger (Aldersgate). And for all nursing homes themselves, all the essential people watching over all the people.

Good News for the Prayers and Concerns: The Congregational Care team delivered individual care packages to those in the church who are 90 or older in 2020. The recipients were: Jerry & Jean Hinton, Marie Culver, Peggy Harrison, Maxine McDaniel, Mary Henderson, Ardith Granger, Gayle Dick, Joanne Armstrong and Donna Spray.

TO THESE DISTRICT CHURCHES:

6 September Churches in other conferences	13 September Atchison	20 September Berryton	27 September Big Springs
Dennis Paschke	Cyd Stein Christine McCoolle	Annie Ricker Karen Montgomery	Michael Turner Stacey Nichols

Please contact the UUMC office if you know of someone who should be included or removed from our prayer list.



Prayer Requests

If you would like to be notified by e-mail when there are new prayer requests, such as church members in the hospital, surgeries, births, deaths, etc., or if you have a prayer request you would like others to know about, contact Mary Winans at mewinans@sbcglobal.net or phone 785-224-4155 and leave a message. If you do not have email and would like to be notified by phone, please call the office at 235-2331.

September Birthdays

- 2 Stacey Bailey
- 2 Bree Rogers
- 2 David Cooper
- 3 Annabel Fredrickson
- 5 Carolyn Trimble
- 6 Bob Bearce
- 7 Linda Benton
- 7 Mike Richardson
- 7 Jenay Weekly
- 9 Suzy Springer
- 17 Linda Kisner
- 18 Brian Snodderly
- 21 Nancy Ferrell
- 22 Gayle Dick

Milestone Birthdays
 7 Jenay Weekly 70
 9 Suzy Springer 75
 22 Gayle Dick 94





September Anniversaries

- 3 Bill & Bree Rogers 20
- 9 Carl & Karen Myers 48
- 23 Peter & Sarah Parks 32
- 30 Bob & Dar Smith 40



If you know of a birthday or anniversary that has been omitted or is not correct on this list, please call the office and let us know.

<p>6 September Exod 12::1-14 Ps149 or Ps 148 Rom 13:8-14 Matt 18:15-20</p>	<p>20 September Exod 16:2-15 Ps 105:1-6, 37-45 or Ps 78 Phil 1:21-30 Matt 20:1-16</p>
<p>13 September Exod 14:19-31 Exod 15:1b-11, 21-21 Rom 14:1-12 Matt 18:21-35</p>	<p>27 September Exod 17:1-7 Ps 78:1-4, 12-16 Phil 2:1-13 Matt 21:23-32</p>

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The **Beacon** is published
monthly for the members
and friends of University
United Methodist Church.



How good and pleasant it is
when God's people live
together in Unity
~Psalm 133:1

*** SUNDAY SCHEDULE ***
9:15 a.m. Worship Service
Sunday School - temporarily
suspended